

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-35 (previously withdrawn)

36. (Currently Amended) A synthetic organic polymer composition comprising:

~~a synthetic organic polymer matrix having a backbone chain, and covalently bound thereto~~ at least one contact-killing, non leaching, charged antimicrobial side chain covalently bound to said backbone chain, wherein such that the said backbone chain synthetic organic polymer matrix does not release biocidal amounts of the charged antimicrobial side chain elutables into the surrounding environment, and wherein the antimicrobial side chain is selected from the group consisting of benzalkonium halide compound, quaternary ammonium salts, pyridinium salts, phosphonium salts, and combinations thereof.

37. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 36 wherein said ~~synthetic organic polymer backbone chain matrix~~ is selected from the group consisting of polyamide, polyethylene, polyvinylidene chloride, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene terephthalate (glycol modified), and polycarbonate.

38. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 36 wherein said ~~synthetic organic polymer backbone chain matrix~~ is a straight chain polymer.

39. (Deleted) ~~The composition of claim 36 wherein said antimicrobial side chain is selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium salts, pyridinium salts, phosphonium salts, and combinations thereof.~~

40. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 36 wherein said antimicrobial side chain is positively charged.

41. (Deleted) ~~The composition of claim 36 wherein said antimicrobial side chain is at least one benzalkonium halide compound.~~

42. (Deleted) ~~The composition of claim 39 wherein said antimicrobial side chain is at least one benzalkonium halide compound.~~